

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 99

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Taylor Cox of Brentwood upon being named Tennessee's top high school volunteer by the 2007 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to salute those young citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as emerging community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Miss Taylor Cox, an estimable resident of Brentwood and a sophomore at Ensworth High School, has been recognized as Tennessee's top high school volunteer in the Prudential Spirit of Community Award's Twelfth Annual Nationwide Program, which honors young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Cox won this recognition for her year-round effort to educate the public about Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) and for her tenacious quest to raise money for the Arthritis Foundation; and

WHEREAS, at age thirteen, Miss Cox was diagnosed with JRA and became one of 300,000 children in the United States who have the condition; and

WHEREAS, since JRA was a mystery to her and to the adults in her life, she embarked on a mission to educate herself and the public; having delivered speeches at school assemblies, student council and scout meetings, community service organizations, and corporate staff meetings; and

WHEREAS, she urged school officials to hold Halloween or Valentine's Day fundraisers for JRA, giving them instruction on how to run the event and providing candy or flowers for them to sell; and

WHEREAS, four schools participated in such fundraisers last year, raising nearly \$10,000 for the Arthritis Foundation while Miss Cox also solicited donations from corporate sponsors and led a team in an annual walk-a-thon; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Cox also met with government officials to inform them about JRA and advocate for their support; and

WHEREAS, as a State Honoree, Taylor Cox will receive \$1,000, an engraved silver medallion at a local ceremony, and an all-expense-paid trip in early May to Washington, D.C., for several days of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depends, in great measure, on the dedication of young people like Taylor Cox who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, Taylor Cox is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Taylor Cox on being recognized as a State Honoree in the Prudential Spirit of Community Award's Twelfth Annual Nationwide Program, recognize her outstanding record of volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit, and extend to her our best wishes for every continued success in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.